S.No.	High Court	Approved Strength	Actual Strength	Vacancies
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	10	04
11.	Jharkhand	12	05	07
12.	Karnataka	40	34	06
13.	Kerala	29	18	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29	21	08
15.	Madras	42	36	06
16.	Orissa	16	14	02
17.	Patna	31	21	10
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	30	10
19.	Rajasthan	32	22	10
20.	Sikkim	03	02	01
21.	Uttaranchal	07	03	04
	TOTAL:	647	470	177

Scheme of legal aid to poor

2967. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for legal aid to poor is under implementation;

(b) if so, the objectives of the scheme and whether it has been able to achieve the desired objectives; and

(c) the performance of the scheme and measures taken by Government for making the scheme more effective, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, Legal Services Authorities have been constituted in States to achieve the on-going objectives of providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity. Progress and status of the schemes framed under the said Act are assessed from time to time. The Central Authority constituted under Section 3 of the said Act is taking steps to establish vibrant

legal aid programmes such as promotion of legal literacy, setting up of legal aid clinics in universities and law colleges, training of para-legals, and holding of legal aid camps and Lok Adalats. The National Legal Services Authority is also formulating policies and schemes to achieve the aims and objects of the Act.

Contesting of elections by candidates with criminal records

2968. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of candidates denied permission to fight Assembly elections held in May, 2001 on the ground of their conviction by the Court;

(b) the number of candidates against whom criminal cases were pending and who were allowed to contest the recent election;

(c) whether it is a fact that a candidate who had not been allowed to contest the Assembly election on the ground of his conviction by the Court was appointed as Chief Minister; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction to this appointment?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Commission to review constitution

2969. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Commission to review the working of the Constitution has given radical proposals for discussion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution has so far released 13 Consultation Papers and Questionnaires to the public and other concerned to elicit their responses. A list of these papers is given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) The Commission is yet to submit its report to the Government. The